

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An impact absorption type telescopic steering column apparatus for a vehicle, in which a steering column is provided so as to be telescopically adjustable with respect to a vehicle body side member and movable toward a front of the vehicle in response to a secondary collision,

characterized in that an outer peripheral surface of said steering column is fitted with a ~~metallic~~-ring functioning as a stopper which regulates a telescopic adjustment of said steering column, and which engages with said vehicle body side member to absorb impact energy while frictionally sliding on said steering column moving toward the front of the vehicle when the secondary collision occurs.

2. (Currently Amended) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said ~~metallic~~-ring is provided with a damper so as to prevent butting noises emitted by abutting against

said vehicle body side member when regulating the telescopic adjustment.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle, in which a steering column includes an outer column and an inner column that is telescopically adjustably fitted in said outer column and movable toward a front of the vehicle with respect to a vehicle body side member in response to a secondary collision,

characterized in that the inner column of said steering column is fitted with a ring that functions as a stopper so as to regulate a telescopic adjustment of said inner column and to absorb impact energy while frictionally sliding on said inner column when the secondary collision occurs.

6. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said ring includes a metallic ring member.

7. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising a releasable locking mechanism having a fastened state, in which the steering column is fixed at an adjusted position, and a released state, in which a position of the steering column can be adjusted.

8. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said ring moves with the steering column during telescopic adjustment so as to be stopped by the vehicle body side member at a limit of the telescopic adjustment.

9. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said ring includes a damper member that is brought into contact with the vehicle body side member at a limit of the telescopic adjustment.

10. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein said ring includes a metallic ring member.

11. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 5, further comprising a releasable locking mechanism having a fastened state, in which the inner column is fixed at an adjusted position, and a released state, in which a position of the inner column can be adjusted.

12. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein said ring moves with the inner column during telescopic adjustment so as to be stopped by the outer column at a limit of the telescopic adjustment.

13. (New) An impact absorption type steering column apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein said ring includes a damper member that is brought into contact with the outer column at a limit of the telescopic adjustment.